

MEMO ENDORSED

**In the United States District Court
for the Southern District of New York**

United States of America

v.

Christopher Coote

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Docket No.: 7:17-cr-00202-KMK-5

**UNOPPOSED MOTION FOR EARLY TERMINATION
OF SUPERVISED RELEASE**

To the Honorable Kenneth M. Karas, United States District Court Judge:

Christopher Coote, through counsel, respectfully moves this Court for an order terminating Mr. Coote's term of supervised release pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3583(e)(1) and Fed. R. Crim. P. Rule 32.1. Mr. Coote has successfully completed thirty (30) months of his sixty (60) month sentence of supervised release imposed on March 14, 2019. In this case, early termination of supervised release is warranted due to Mr. Coote's exemplary post-conviction conduct and compliance with the conditions of supervised release, including his completion of the financial obligations imposed as part of his sentence and his demonstrated ability to lead a law-abiding life.

The United States is not opposing the early termination of Mr. Coote's supervised release, as the United States Probation Office is recommending early termination of Mr. Coote's supervised release. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "A"** is a letter from U.S. Probation Officer Christina Alexander confirming same.

I. Background

Mr. Coote pleaded guilty to a superseding information charging him with conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute marijuana, 21 U.S.C. §§ 846, 851(a)(1), and 841(b)(1)(A), and one count of possessing a firearm in furtherance of

a drug trafficking crime, 18 U.S.C. § 924(c), and was sentenced by This Honorable Court on March 14, 2019. Mr. Coote was sentenced to time served, followed by a five-year period of supervised release, an assessment of \$200, fines of \$5,000, and to forfeit all property, real and person, involved in the offense or traceable to such property.

II. Applicable Law

A defendant may seek modification or termination of a term of supervised release. 18 U.S.C. § 3583(e)(1); *United States v. Pequero*, No. 08 Cr. 823 (VSB), 2021 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 59560, at *3-4 (S.D.N.Y. Mar. 26, 2021). The court may, upon motion, terminate a term of supervised release after one year if, after considering the factors set forth in Title 18, United States Code, Sections 3553(a)(1), (a)(2)(B), (a)(2)(C), (a)(2)(D), (a)(4), (a)(5), (a)(6), and (a)(7), the Court finds that the defendant's conduct while on supervised release and the interest of justice warrant early termination. 18 U.S.C. § 3583(e)(1).

Although the factors listed in section 3553(a) require the Court “to consider general punishment issues such as deterrence, public safety, rehabilitation, proportionality, and consistency,” the purpose of supervised release is not to further punish the defendant; its purpose is rehabilitation. *United States v. Erskine*, No. 05 Cr. 1234 (DC), 2021 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 42640, at *1 (S.D.N.Y. Mar. 8, 2021) (quoting *United States v. Lussier*, 104 F.3d 32, 34 (2d Cir. 1997)). Because supervised release is meant to “assist individuals in their transition to community life,” it “fulfills rehabilitative ends, distinct from those served by incarceration.” *United States v. Johnson*, 529 U.S. 53, 59 (2000).

The Judicial Conference has identified the following criteria to assess eligibility for early termination of supervised release:

Officers should consider the sustainability of early termination for offenders as soon as they are statutorily eligible. The general criteria for assessing whether a statutorily eligible offender should be recommended to the court as an appropriate candidate for early termination are as follows:

1. stable community reintegration (e.g., residence, family, employment);
2. progressive strides toward supervision objectives and in compliance with all conditions of supervision;
3. no aggravated role in the offense of conviction, particularly large drug or fraud offenses;
4. no history of violence (e.g., sexually assaultive, predatory behavior, or domestic violence);
5. no recent arrests or convictions (including unresolved pending charges), or ongoing uninterrupted patterns of criminal conduct;
6. no recent evidence of alcohol or drug abuse;
7. no recent psychiatric episodes;
8. no identifiable risk to the safety of any identifiable victim;
9. no identifiable risk to public safety based on the Risk Prediction Index (RPI).

Guide to Judiciary Policy, Vol. 8E, Ch. 3 § 380.10(b), “Early Termination” (Monograph 109) (rev’d 2010).

The policy creates “a presumption in favor of recommending early termination” for supervisees after the first eighteen months if they are not “career violent and/or drug offenders, sex offenders, or terrorists,” if they “present no identified risk to the public or victims,” and if they are “free from any moderate or high severity violations.” *Id.* § 380.10(g).

On February 16, 2012, the Honorable Robert Holmes Bell, Chair of the Committee on Criminal Law of the Judicial Conference, issued a memorandum to all

United States District Court Judges encouraging them to grant early termination of supervised release in appropriate cases as an effort to reduce expenditures in the probation and pretrial services programs. *See* Hon. Robert Holmes Bell, Chair, JUDICIAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL LAW, MEMORANDUM RE: COST-CONTAINMENT STRATEGIES RELATED TO PROBATION AND PRETRIAL SERVICES OFFICES (Feb. 16, 2012). Terminating “appropriate cases before they reach their full term saves resources and allows officers to focus on offenders who continue to pose the greatest risk of recidivism.” *Id.* Judge Bell’s memorandum notes that supervision costs approximately \$3,938 per year per case. *Id.* Analysis by the Administrative Office of the Courts indicates that offenders who received early termination were “arrested less often, for less serious charges, and were sentenced to terms of imprisonment less often.” *Id.* Accordingly, “from a policy standpoint, it appears that the above criteria, when properly applied, does not jeopardize public safety.” *Id.*

The ultimate decision whether to grant early termination rests within the sound discretion of this Court. *United States v. Harris*, 689 F. Supp. 2d 692, 694 (S.D.N.Y. 2010) (citing *Lussier*, 104 F.3d at 36). The Court is not required to hold a hearing on a motion for early termination of supervised release if the government received notice of the relief sought and did not object after a reasonable opportunity to do so. Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.1(c)(2)(B)-(C); *Pequero*, No. 08 Cr. 823 (VSB), 2021 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 59560, at *4.

III. Early Termination of Supervised Release is Appropriate and Just

Mr. Coote satisfies all the factors set forth for early termination of supervised release. Throughout the past thirty (30) months, Mr. Coote has fully and faithfully complied with all conditions of his sentence of supervised release. He has demonstrated

good behavior, reintegrated himself into the community by maintaining a stable job and stable housing, committed no new crimes, and completed the financial obligations of his sentence. He has no current need for programming or treatment, and none has been required during his supervised release.

Mr. Coote took full responsibility for his actions, pleaded guilty to two serious felony offenses, and was incarcerated in connection with the charges in this case for approximately twenty-three (23) months – without incident – before he was sentenced to time served. Mr. Coote is not a risk to public safety, nor does he have a history of violence, apart from a state conviction for attempted assault in the second degree when he was nineteen (19) years old. Nearly twenty (20) years have passed since that conviction.

Mr. Coote has no recent arrests or convictions. There is no evidence of recent alcohol or drug abuse. He has not had any psychiatric episodes, recent or otherwise. There was no human victim in this case, so there is no identifiable risk to any victim.

In short, none of the factors listed in sections 3553 or 3583, outlined above, weigh against early termination of supervised release. The United States Probation Office can confirm his positive post-conviction adjustment and the lack of any need to continue his supervision. *See United States v. Callahan*, No. 08 Cr. 349 (JGK), 2018 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 93541, at *1 (S.D.N.Y. June 1, 2018) (granting early termination where defendant had made significant strides toward rehabilitation, maintained stable housing and a period of sobriety, probation did not believe further supervision was necessary, and the government did not object).

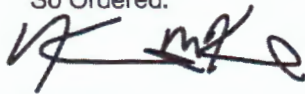
IV. Conclusion

Early termination of supervised release is warranted in this case due to Mr. Coote's exemplary post-conviction adjustment and conduct, including discharging the financial obligations related to this case and living a law-abiding life since he was sentenced. Mr. Coote therefore requests that this Court grant this unopposed motion for early termination of his remaining sentence of supervised release.

Dated: September 20, 2021
White Plains, New York

After considering all the relevant factors and given the lack of opposition from the Probation Department and the Government, the Court grants the application.

So Ordered.



9/20/21

Respectfully submitted,

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Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that on September 20, 2021, I caused a true and correct copy of the foregoing motion to be served via the Court's ECF system to all counsel of record in this matter.

/s/ Richard A. Portale